

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 OMB-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 OPR-02

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: POLITICAL "GRAFFITI WAR" IN IZMIR

1. IN RECENT WEEKS THE WALLS OF BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN IZMIR HAVE BEEN LIBERALLY SPLATTERED WITH CRUDELY PAINTED POLITICAL SLOGANS AND PARTY INITIALS. SOME SUCH GRAFFITI FIRST APPEARED IN IZMIR WHEN DEMIREL VISITED THE CITY TO WELCOME SOME DP DEFECTORS INTO THE JUSTICE PARTY. BUT THE RECENT SPATE OF SLOGANS HAS BEEN SO SPECTACULAR THAT IT HAS CAUGHT, AND OFFENDED, THE EYES OF ALL IZMIRLIS.

2. THE SUDDEN ESCALATION IN THE "GRAFFITI WAR" ROUGHLY

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COINCIDED WITH THE RECENT INCIDENTS AT GERED AND DIYARBAKIR AND, IN OUR JUDGEMENT, REFLECTS THE DEEPENING
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OF BITTER INTERNAL POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL DIVISIONS

AND ALSO A RESURGENCE OF JINGOISM WITH ANTI-AMERICAN,
ANTI-CAPITALIST AND ANTI-NATO OVERTONES.

3. EACH SIDE IS DEFACING OR ALTERING THE SLOGANS AND
PARTY INITIALS OF THE OTHER. MSP IS CONVERTED TO CHP;
BASBUG TURKES (TURKES THE CHIEF) IS CONVERTED TO BASPUST
TURKES (TURKES, THE CHIEF QUEER). NATIONAL SALVATION
PARTY SLOGANS SUCH AS BEDENIMIZ TURK, RUHUMUZ MULUMAN
(OUR BODIES ARE TURKISH, OUR SPIRITS MOHAMMEDAN) ARE
APPEARING ON MOSQUES. STRANGELY, THE JUSTICE PARTY
SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHICH IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN
THIS "PAINT BRUSH" POLITICKING. FOR THE MOST PART, THE
"GRAFFITI WAR" SEEMS TO INVOLVE THE ADHERENTS OF THE
NATIONAL ACTION PARTY AND EXTREME LEFTIST GROUPS
WHOSE SLOGANEERING PRAISES "REVOLUTIONARIES" WHILE
DAMNING FASCISTS, THE PRESENT COALITION GOVERNMENT,
NATO, ERBAKAN, TURKES, CAPITALISM, AND THE UNITED STATES
(I.E. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS).

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4. SO MUCH PAINT WAS BEING SPLASHED ON IZMIR'S WALLS
THAT THE MAYOR SPOKE WRATHFULLY AGAINST IT AND ORDERED
HIS POLICEMEN TO TAKE ACTION. HOWEVER, THE THE ABSENCE
OF ANY LAWS SPECIFICALLY FORBIDDING SUCH DEFAACEMENT OF
PROPERTY, POLICE HAVE HAD TO CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH
FORCING OFFENDERS WHO ARE APPREHENDED TO BEAR THE EX-
PENSE OF RESTORING DEFACED WALLS TO APPROXIMATELY THEIR
ORIGINAL CONDITION. THIS SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A SOBERING
EFFECT ON SUCH MALEFACTORS AND, AS A RESULT, THE
CITIZENS OF IZMIR NOW THINK THEY SEE LIGHT AT THE END OF
THE TUNNEL AS THE "GRAFFITI WAR" APPEARS TO BE WINDING
DOWN.
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